RICHARD TARLTON.

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Tarltons Jests.

Drawne into these three parts.

1 *His Court-witty Iests.*
2 *His sound City Iests.*
3 *His Countrey pretty Iests.*

Full of delight, Wit, and honest Mirth.

LONDON,
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Tarltons *Court-witty Jests.*

How *Tarlton* plaid the Drunkard before the Queene.

THE Quéene being discontented; which Tarlton perceiuing, took vpon him to delight her with some quaint iest: whereupon he counterfaited a drunkard, and called for Béere, which was brought immediately. Her Maiestie noting his humor, commanded that he should haue no more: for (quoth shée) he will play the beast, and so shame himselfe. Feare not you (quoth Tarlton) for your Béere is small enough. Whereat her Maiestie laughed heartily, and commanded that he should haue enough.

How *Tarlton* deceiued the Watch in Fleetstreet.

TArlton hauing bin late at Court, & cõming homewards thorow Fléetstréet, he espied the Watch, and not knowing how to passe them, hée went very fast, thinking by that meanes to goe vnexamined: But the Watchmen perceiuing that hee shunned them, kept to him, & commanded him in the Quéenes name to stand. Stand, quoth Tarlton? let them stand that can, for I cannot. So falling downe, as though he had been drunke, they helpt him vp, and so let him passe.

How *Tarlton* flowted a Lady in the Court.

VPon a time, Tarlton being among certaine Ladies at a banquet which was at Greenewich, the Quéene then lying there, one of the Ladies had her face full of pimples with heat at her stomake, for which cause she refused to drinke wine amongst the rest of the Ladies: which Tarlton perceiuing (for he was there of purpose to iest amongst them) quoth he, A murren of that face, which makes all the body sare the worse for it. At which the rest of the Ladies laught, and she blushing for shame) left the banquet.

Tarltons opinion of Oysters.

CErtaine Noblemen and Ladies of the Court, being eating of Oysters, one of them seeing Tarlton, called him, & asked him if he loued Oysters? No (quoth Tarlton) for they be vngodly meate, vncharitable meat, and vnprofitable meate. Why, quoth the Courtiers? They are vngodly, saies Tarlton, because they are eaten without grace, vncharitable, because they leaue nought but shelles: and vnprofitable, because they must swim in wine.

Tarltons resolution of a question.

ONe of the company taking the Gentlemans part, asked Tarlton at what time he thought the Diuell to be most busied? When the Pope dies, (quoth he.) Why saies the Courtier? Marry answered he) then all the Deuils are troubled and busied to plague him: for he hath sent many a soule before him thither, that exclaime against him.

How a personage fell into *Tarltons* hands.

HEr Maiestie dining in the Strand at the Lord Treasurers, the Lords were very desirous that she would vouch-

vouchsafe to stay all night: but nothing could prevaile with her. Tarlton was in his Clownes apparell, being all dinner while in the presence with her, to make her merry: and hearing the sorrow that the Noblemen made, that they could not worke her stay: he asked the Nobles what they would give him to worke her stay? The Lords promised him any thing, to performe it. Quoth he procure me the Parsonage of Shard. They caused the patent to be drawne presently: he got on a Parsons gowne and a corner-Cap, & standing upon the staires, where the Queene should descend, he repeated these words: A Parson, or no Parson? A Parson, or no Parson: but after she knew his meaning, she not only stayd all night, but the next day willed she should have possession of the Benefice. A madder Parson was never, for he threatned to turne the Bell-mettle into lyning for his purse: which he did, the Parsonage and all, into ready money.

How *Tarlton* Proved two Gentlewomen dishonest by their owne words.

TArlton being in Greenwich two Gentlewomen in the Garden together, to move mirth comes to them, and enquires thus: Gentlewomen, which of you two is the honester? I, sayes the one, I hope without exceptions: and I quoth the other, since we must speake for our selves: so then sayes Tarlton, one of you by your own words is dishonest, one being honester then the other, else you would answere otherwise: but as I found you, so I leave you.

How *Tarlton* answered a wanton Gentlewoman.

A Gentlewoman merrily disposed, being crost by Tarlton, and halfe angry, said, Sirra, a little thing would make me requite you with a cuffe. With a cuff, Lady, sayes Tarlton? so would you spell my sorrow forward: but spell my sorrow backward, then cuffe me and spare not:

when the Gentlemen by consideres of the word, they laughing, made the simple-meaning Gentlewoman to blush for shame.

How *Tarlton* dared a Lady.

AT the Dinner in the great Chamber where Tarlton iested, the Ladies were daring one another: quoth one, I euer durst do any thing that is honest and Honourable. A French crowne of that, sayes Tarlton. Ten pound of that sayes the Lady. Done, sayes one, Done sayes another. Tarlton put two pence betwixt his lips, and dared her to take it away with her lips. Fie, sayes shee, that is immodestly. What to kisse, sayes Tarlton? then immodestly beares a great hand euer all: but once in your life say, you haue beene beaten at your owne weapon. Well Sir, sayes shee, you may say anything. Then sayes Tarlton, remember, I say you dare not, and so my wager is good.

How *Tarlton* landed at Cuckolds haven.

TArlton being one Sunday at Court all day, caused a paire of Oares to tend him, who at night called on him to be gone. Tarlton being a caroufing, drunk so long to the Watermen, that one of them was bumpsie, and so indeede were all three for the most part: at last they left Greenwich, the tide being at a great low fall, the Watermen pet afraide of the Cradle Cables by the Lime-house, very darke and late as it was, landed Tarlton at Cuckolds-haven, and said, the next day they would giue him a reason for it: But Tarlton was faine to goe by land to Redriffe on the dirty banke, euery step knee-deepe: so that coming home, hee called one of his boyes to help him off with his boots, meaning his stockings, which were died of another colour. Whereupon one gaue him this theame the next day:

Tarlton, tell mee: for fayne would I know,
If thou wert landed at Cuckolds-haven or no?

Tarlton

Tarlton answered thus:

Yes, Sir, and I tak't in, no scorne:
For many land there yet misse of the horne.

How *Tarlton* fought with blacke Davie.

NOt long since liued a little swaggerer: called Blacke Davie, who would at Sword and Buckler fight with any Gentleman or other, for twelue pence: he being hired to draw vpon Tarlton, for breaking a iest vpon hucking Kate, a Punke, as men termed her: one euening, Tarlton comming forth at the Court gate, being at Whitehall, and walking toward the Tilt-yard, this Davie immediately drew vpon Tarlton: who on the sudden, though amazed, drew likewise, and enquired the cause: which Davie denied, till they had fought a bout or two. Tarlton courageously got within him, and taking him in his armes, threw him into the Tilt-yard, who falling vpon his nose, broke it extremely, that euer after he snuffled in the head; poore Davie lying all that night in the Tilt-yard, expecting the doores to be opened came forth, and at the Barber-surgeons told of this bloody combat: and the occasion of it was (quoth he) because Tarlton being in a Tauerne, in the company of this damnable Cacatrice hucking Kate, called for wine, but she told him, That without he would burne it, she would not drink. No quoth Tarlton, it shall be burnt, for thou canst burne it without fire. As how Sir (quoth she?) Pary thus. Take the Cup in thine hand, and I will tell thee. So he filling the cup in her hand, said it was burnt sufficiently in so fiery a place: shee perceiuing her selfe so flouted, hired me to be her Champion, to reuenge her quarrell.

How *Tarlton* answered the Watchmen, comming from the Court.

TArlton hauing plaied before the Quéene till one a clock at midnight, comming homewards, one of them espied

espied him, called him, Sirra what art thou? A woman, sayes Tarlton. Nay, that is a lye, say the Watchmen; women haue no such beards. Tarlton replyed, If I should haue said a man, that you know to be true, and would haue bidden me, tel you that you know not, therefore I said a woman, and so I am all woman, hauing pleased the Queen, being a woman. Well, sirra, sayes another, I present the Queene: then am I a woman, indeed, sayes Tarlton, as well as you, for you haue a beard as well as I, and truly Mistris Annis, my buske is not done yet: when will your seruice leaue thy gibing, fellow, saith the Watch, the Queenes will is, That whosoeuer is taken without doores after ten a clocke, shall bee committed, and now it is past one: commit all such, sayes Tarlton, for if it be past one a clocke, it will not be ten this eight houres: with that one lifts vp his Lanthorne, and lookes him in the face, and knew him; Indeed M. Tarlton you haue more wit then all we, for it is true, that ten was before one, but now one is before ten. It is true, quoth Tarlton, Watch-men had wont to haue more wit, but for want of sleepe they are turned fooles: so Tarlton stole from them: and they to seeme wise, went home to bed.

Tarltons answer to a Courtier.

TArlton being at the Court all night, in the morning he met a great Courtier cõming from his Chamber, who espying Tarlton, said: God morrow, M. Didimus and Tridimus: Tarlton being somewhat abashed, not knowing the meaning thereof, said, Sir, I vnderstand you not, expound, I pray you. Quoth the Courtier, Didimus and Tridimus, is a foole and a knaue: you ouerloade me, replied Tarlton, for my backe cannot beare both; therefore take you the one, and I will take the other, take you the knaue, and I will carry the foole with me.

Tarlton

Tarltons quip for a yong Courtier.

THere was a young Gentleman in the Court, that had first lien with the Mother, and after with the Daughter, and hauing so done, asked Tarlton what it resembled: quoth he, As if you should first haue eaten the Hen, and after, the Chicken.

Tarltons answere to a Noblemans question.

THere was a Nobleman that asked Tarlton what he thought of Souldiers in time of Peace. Marry (quoth he) they are like Chimnies in Summer.

Tarltons Iest to an vnthrifty Courtier.

THere was an vnthriftie Gallant belonging to the Court, that had borrowed fiue pounds of Tarlton: but hauing lost it at Dice, he sent his man to Tarlton to borrow fiue pounds more, by the same token he owed him already fiue pounds. Pray tel your Master (quoth Tarlton) that if he will send me the token, I will send him the money: for who deceiues me once, God forgiue him: if twice, God forgiue him: but if thrice, God forgiue him, but not me, because I could not beware.

How *Tarlton* flouted two Gallants.

TArlton being in a merry vaine, as he walked in the great Hall in Greenwitch, he met my old Lord Chamberlaine, going betweene two fantasticke Gallants, and cryed aloud vnto him, my Lord, my Lord, you goe in great danger: whereat amazed, he asked whereof: of drowning (quoth Tarlton) were it not for those two bladders vnder each of your armes.

Tarltons iest of a red face.

TO an Ordinary in White Fryers, where Gentlemen vsed, by reason of extraordinary diet, to this Tarlton often frequented, as well to continue acquaintance as to please his appetite. It chanced vpon a time (especially) being set among st the Gentlemen and Gallants, they enquired of him, why melancholy had got the vpper hand of his mirth; to which he said little, but with a squint eye (as custome had made him hare eyed) he looked for a Iest to make them merry. At last he espied one that sate on his left side, which had a very red face, he being a very great Gentleman, (which was all one to Tarlton) he presently in great haste called his Host: Who doe I serue (my Host) quoth Tarlton; The Queenes Paiestie, replied the Owd man of the house. How happens it then, quoth Tarlton, that (to her Paiesties disgrace) you dare make me a companion with Seruingmen, clapping my Lord Shandoyes Cullisance vpon my sleeue, looking at the Gentleman with the red face; mee thinkes, quoth he, it sits like the Saracens head without Newgate. The Gentlemans Salamanders face burnt like Etna for anger. The rest laughed heartily. In the end (all enraged) the Gentleman swore to fight with him at next meeting.

A sudden and dangerous fray, twixt a Gentleman and *Tarlton*, which he put off with a iest.

AS Tarlton and others passed along Fleet-street, he espied a tyrust yong Gallant, black of complexion, with long haire hanging downe ouer his eares, and his beard

beard of the Italian cut, in white Sattin, very quaintly cut, and his body so stiffely starcht, that he could not bend himselfe any way for no gold. Tarlton, seeing such a wonder comming, trips before him, and meeting this Gallant, tooke the wall of him, knowing that one so proud, at least looked for the prerogatiue. The Gallant scorning that a Player should take the wall, or so much indignifie him, turnes himselfe, and presently drew his Rapier. Tarlton, drew likewise. The Gentleman fell to it roundly: but Tarlton (in his owne defence) compassing and trauersing his ground, gaped with a wide mouth, whereat the people laughed: the Gentleman pausing, enquired why he gaped so. O Sir, saies he, in hope to swallow you; for by my troth you seeme to me like a Prune in a messe of white Broth. At this the people parted them. The Gentleman noting his mad humour, went his way wel contented: for he knew not how to amend it.

Tarltons Iest of a Pippin.

AT the Bull in Bishops-gate-street, where the Queenes Players oftentimes played, Tarlton comming on the Stage, one from the Gallery threw a Pippin at him. Tarlton take vp the Pip, and loking on it, made this sudden iest.

Pip in, or nose in, chuse you whether,
Put yours in, ere I put in the other.
Pippin you haue put in: then, for my grace,
Would I might put your nose in another place.

A iest of an Apple hitting *Tarlton* on the face.

TArlton hauing flouted the fellow for his pippin which he threw, he thought to bemet with Tarlton at length. So in the Play Tarltons part was to trauell, who kneeling down to aske his father blessing, the fellow threw an Apple at him, which hit him on the cheek. Tarlton taking vp the Apple, made this iest.

Gentleman, this fellow, with this face of Mapple,
In stead of a pipin, hath throwne me an Apple,
But as for an Apple, he hath cast a Crab,
So in stead of an honest woman, God hath sent him a drab.

The people laughed heartily, for he had a Queane to his wife.

How *Tarlton* and one in the Gallery fell out.

IT chanced that in the midst of a play, after long expectation for Tarlton: being much desired of the people, at length hee came forth: where (at his entrance) one in the Gallerie pointed his finger at him, saying to a friend that had never seene him, that is he. Tarlton to make sport at the least occasion given him, and seeing the man point with the finger, he in loue againe held vp two fingers: the captious fellow, iealous of his wife, (for he was married) and because a Player did it, tooke the matter more hainously, & asked him why he made hornes at him: No (quoth Tarlton) they be fingers:

For there is no man, Which in loue to me,
Lends me one finger, but he shall have three.

No, no, sayes the fellow, you gaue me the hornes. True (sayes Tarlton) for my fingers are tipt with nailes, which are like hornes, and I must make a shew of that which you are sure of. This matter grew so, that the more he meddled, the more it was for his disgrace: wherefore the standers by counselled him to depart, both he and his hornes, lest his cause grew desperate. So the poore fellow, pluching his hat ouer his eyes, went his wayes.

How Fiddlers fiddled away *Tarltons* apparell.

IT chanced that one Fancy and Nancy, two Musicians in London, vsed often with their boyes to visit Tarlton, when he dwelt in Gracious-street at the signe of the Saba,

a Ta-

a Tauerne, he being one of their best friends or benefactors, by reason of old acquaintance: to requite which, they came one Summers morning to play him The Hunt's vp, with such Musicke as they had. Tarlton, to requite them, would open his chamber doore, and for their paines would giue them Pusk adme: which a Cony-catcher noting, and seeing Tarlton came forth in his shirt and night-gowne to drinke with these Musicians, the while this nimble fellow stept in, and tooke Tarltons apparell, which euery day he wore, thinking that if he were espied to turne it to a iest: but it past for currant, and he goes his wayes. Not long after Tarlton returned to his chamber, & looked for his cloaths: but they were safe enough from him. The next day this was noised abroad, and one in mockage threw him in this theame, he playing then at the Curtaine:

Tarlton, I will tell thee a iest,
Which after turned to earnest:
One there was, as I heard say,
Who in his shirt heard Musicke play,
While all his clothes were stolne away.

Tarlton smiling at this, answered on the sudden thus.

That's certaine, Sir, it is no lie
That same one in truth was I,
When that the theefe shall Pine and lacke,
Then shall I haue cloathes to my backe:
And I, together with my fellowes,
May see them ride to Tiborne Gallowes.

Of *Tarlton* and a beggar.

THere was a pore begger, but a conceited fellow, who seeing Tarlton at his doore, asked something of him for Gods cause. Tarlton putting his hand in his pocket, gaue him two pence in stead of a penny: at which Tarlton made this Ryme;

Of all the Beggers most happy thou art,
For to thee mine hand is better then my heart.

Quoth the Begger.

True it is, Master, as it chanceth now:
The better for me, and the worse for you.

How *Tarlton* deceived a Doctor of Physicke.

TArlton to satisfie the humours of certaine Gentlemen his familiar acquaintance, went about for to try the skil of a simple Doctor of Physick, that dwelt not far from Islington, and thus it was: he tooke a faire Urinal, and filled it halfe full of good Wine, and bore it to this Doctor, saying it was a sick mans water: he viewed it, and tolling it up and downe, as though he had great knowledge: quoth he, the Patient whose water it is, is full of grosse humors, and hath nede of purging, and to be let some ten ounces of bloud. No, you Dunce, replyed Tarlton, it is good pisse, and with that drunke it off, and threw the Urinall at his head.

How *Tarlton* frighted a Country fellow.

TArlton passing through London, by chance he heard a simple Country fellow in an Ale-house, calling for a Kingstone pot of Ale, kept in to him, and threatned to accuse him of treason, saying Sirra, I have seene and tasted of a penny pot of Ale, and have found good of the price, but of a Kingstone coyne I never heard: therefore it is some counterfet, and I must know how thou camest by it: hereupon, the country fellow was driuen into such a maze, that out of doores he got, and tooke him to his heeles, as though wilde-fire had followed him.

How

How *Tarlton* was deceiued by his Wife in London.

TArlton, being merrily disposed as his Wife and he sate together, he said vnto her, Kate, answer me to one question, without a lye, and take this crown of gold: which shee took on condition, that if she lost, to restore it back again. Quoth Tarlton, am I a Cuckold or no, Kate; Whereat shee answered not a word, but stood silent, notwithstanding he urged her many waies. Tarlton seeing she would not speak, askt his gold againe. Why, quoth shee, haue I made any lye; no, sayes Tarlton: why then good man foole, I haue won the wager. Tarlton mad with anger, made this Rime.

As women in speech can reuile a man;
So can they in silence beguile a man.

One askt *Tarlton* what country man the Diuell was.

In Carter Lane dwelt a merry Cobler, who being in company with Tarlton, askt him what Country-man the Diuell was: quoth Tarlton, a Spaniard: for Spaniards like the Diuel, trouble the whole world.

A Cheese-mongers question to *Tarlton*.

In time of scarsity, a simple Cheese-monger hearing Tarlton commended for his quick wit, came vnto him and asked him, why he thought Cheese and Butter to be so deare; Tarlton answered, Because Wood and Coales are so deare, for Butter and Cheese a man may eate without a fire.

Tarltons answere to a rich Londoner.

TArlton meeting a rich Londoner, fell into talke about the Bishop of Peterborough, highly praising his bounti-

tie

tie to his seruants, his liberality to strangers, his great hospitality and charity to the poore. He doth well, sayes the rich man, for what he hath, he hath but during his life. Why (quoth Tarlton) for how many liues haue you your gods?

How *Tarlton* gaue away his dinner.

AS Tarlton and his wife sate at dinner, his wife being displeased with him, and thinking to crosse him, she gaue away halfe his meat vnto a poore Begger, saying, Take this for my other husbands sake. Whereupon Tarlton tooke all that was left, and likewise bade the poore fellow to pray for his other wiues soule.

Tarltons answere to a boy in a Rime.

THere was a crackrope Boy, meeting Tarlton in London street, sung this Rime vnto Tarlton:

Woe worth thee *Tarlton*,
That euer thou wast borne:
Thy Wife hath made thee Cuckold,
And thou must weare the horne.

Tarlton presently answered him in Extempore.

What and if I be (Boy)
I me ne're the worse:
She keepes me like a Gentleman,
With mony in my purse.

How *Tarlton* bad himselfe to dinner to my Lord Maiors.

A Iest came in Tarltons head where to dine: & thought he, in all that a man does, let him aime at the fairest: for

for sure if I bid my felle any where this day, it shall be to my Lords Maiors: and vpon this goes to the Counter, and entereth his action against my Lord Maior, who was presently told of it, and sends for him. Tarlton waits dinner time, and then comes, who was admitted presently. Maister Tarlton (saies my Lord Maior) haue you entered an action against me in the Poultry Counter? My Lord (saies Tarlton) haue you entred an action against mée in Woodstréet Counter? Not I in troth, saies my Lord. No (saies Tarlton) he was a villaine that told me so then: but if it bée not so, forgiue me this fault, my Lord, and I will neuer offend in the next. But in the end he begins to sweare, how he will be reuenged on him that mockt him, and flings out in a rage. But my Lord said, Stay, Mr. Tarlton, dine with me, and no doubt but after dinner you will be better minded. I will try that, my Lord, saies Tarlton, and if it alter mine anger, both mine enemy and I will thanke you together for this courtesie.

Tarltons Iest of a box on the eare.

One that fell out with his friend, métes him in the strét, and calling him into a corner, gaue him a box on the eare, and told him, getting him gone, and neuer told wherefore he did so: which Tarlton beholding, raised vp the fellow, and asked him the reason of their sudde falling out. Can you tell, Sir, said the fellow? for by my troth as yet I cannot. Well said Tarlton, the more fole you: for had I such feeling of the cause, my wit would remember the iniurie: but many men are gossings; the more they feele, the lesse they conceiue.

Tarltons Iest to two Tailors.

Tarlton méeting two Taylors (friends of his) in the euening in mirth cries, Who goes there, A man, answered a Taylor: How many is there? one? Yea, said Tarlton: two, said the other Taylor: then you say true,

said Tarlton: for two Taylors goe to a man. But before they parted, they fort Tarlton at the Castle in Pater noster Row, that Tarlton confest them two Taylors to be honest men. So what they spent in the purse, they got in the person, Comming but one, by Tarltons account, they returned two. But Tarlton comming one, returned lesse by his wit: for that was shrunk in the wetting.

How *Tarlton* iested at his wife.

TArlton and his wife keeping an Ordinary in Paternoster Row, were bidden out to Supper: and because he was a man noted, shee would not goe with him in the street, but intreats him to keepe one side, and she another: which he consented to. But as he went, hee would cry out to her, and say, Turne that way, wife: and anon, On this side, wife. So the people flockt the more to laugh at them. But his wife (more than mad angry) goes back againe, and almost forswore his company.

How *Tarlton* committed a Rakers horse to ward.

WHen Tarlton dwelt in Gracious street, at a Tauerne at the signe of the Saba, he was chosen Scauenger, and often the Ward complained of his slacknesse, in keeping the streets cleane. So on a time when the Cart came, he asked the Raker why he did his businesse so slackly? Sir (said he) my fore-horse was in the fault, who being let bloud and drencht yesterday, I durst not labour him. Sir (said Tarlton) your horse shall smart for it: and so leads him to the Counter: which the Raker laught at, and (without his horse) did his worke with the rest, thinking Tarltons humour was but to iest, and would returne him his horse againe anon. But when that anon came, hee was faine to pay all his fees of the Prison, as directly as if hee himselfe had beene there. For if Tarlton had committed the Master, the businesse had not gone forward: therefore the horse was in prison for the Master.

How

How *Tarlton* made *Armin* his adopted sonne to succeed him.

TArlton keeping a Tauerne in Gracious-street, hee let it to another, who was indebted to Armins Master, a Goldsmith in Lombard-street, yet he himselfe had a chamber in the same house. And this Armin (being then a wag) came often thither to demand his Masters money, which he sometimes had, and sometimes had not. In the end the man growing poore, told the boy hee had no money for his Master, and hee must beare with him. The mans name being Charles Armin, made this Verse, writing it with Chalke on a Waine-scot.

O world, why wilt thou lye?
Is this *Charles* the great? that I deny.
Indeed *Charles* the great before:
But now *Charles* the lesse, being poore.

Tarlton comming into the roome, reading it, and partly acquainted with the boyes humour, comming often thither for his Masters money, tooke a peece of Chalk, and wrote this Ryme by it:

A wagge thou art, none can preuent thee;
And thy desert shall content thee,
Let me diuine: As I am, so in time thou'lt be the same,
My adopted sonne therefore be,
To enioy my Clownes sute after me.

And see how it fell out. The boy reading this, so loued Tarlton after, that regarding him with more respect, hee vsed to his Playes, and fell in a league with his humour: and priuate practise brought him to present playing, and at this houre performes the same, where, at the Globe on the Banks side men may see him.

Tarltons greeting with *Banks* his Horse.

THere was one Banks (in the time of Tarlton) who serued the Earle of Essex and had a Horse of strange qua-

lities: and being at the Crosse-keyes in Gracious-street, getting mony with him, as he was mightily reloyced to; Tarlton then (with his fellowes) playing at the Bell by, came into the Crosse-keyes (amongst many people (to see fashions: which Banks perceiuing (to make the people laugh) saies Signior (to his horse) Go fetch me the veryest fole in the company. The Jade comes immediately, and with his mouth drawes Tarlton forth. Tarlton (with merry words) said nothing but God a mercy Horse. In the end Tarlton seeing the people laugh so, was angry inwardly, & said, Sir, had I power of your horse, as you haue, I would doe more than that. What ere it be, said Banks (to please him) I will charge him to do it. Then (saies Tarlton) charge him to bring me the veriest whore-master in this company. He shall (saies Bankes,) Signior (saies he) bring Master Tarlton here the veriest whore-master in the company. The Horse leades his Master to him. Then god a mercy horse indeed, saies Tarlton. The people had much ado to keep peace; but Bankes and Tarlton had like to haue fought: and the horse by to giue aime. But euer after it was a by-word thorow London, God a mercy Horse, and is to this day.

An excellent Iest of *Tarlton* suddenly spoken.

AT the Bull at Bishops-gate was a Play of Henry the fift, wherein the Iudge was to take a box on the eare, and because he was absent that should take the blow, Tarlton himselfe (euer forward to please) take vpon him to play the same Iudge, besides his owne part of the Clowne: and Knel then playing Henry the fift, hit Tarlton a sound box indeed, which made the people laugh the more because it was he: but anon the Iudge goes in, and immediately Tarlton (in his Clownes cloathes) comes out, and askes the Actors what newes; O (saith one) hadst thou been here, thou shouldest haue seene Prince Henry hit the Iudge a terrible box on the eare. What man, said Tarlton

strike

ſtrike a Iudge? It is true ſaith, ſaid the other, ſo other like, ſaid Tarlton, and it could not be but terrible to the Iudge, when the report ſo terrifies me, that me thinkes the blow remaines ſtill on my cheeke, that it burnes againe. The people laught at this mightily: and to this day I haue heard it commended for rare, but no maruell, for he had many of theſe: But I would ſee our Clowns in theſe dayes doe the like: no I warrant ye, and yet they thinke well of themſelues too.

Tarltons ieſt with a Boy in the ſtreet.

A Wag-halter Boy met Tarlton in the ſtréet, and ſaid, Maſter Tarlton, who liues longeſt? Pary Boy, ſaies Tarlton, he that dies lateſt: and why dye men ſo faſt, ſaid the Boy? Becauſe they want breath, ſaid Tarlton: no, rather ſaid the Boy, becauſe their time is come: thē thy time is come, ſaid Tarlton, ſo who comes yonder: Who? ſaid the Boy? Pary, ſaid Tarlton, Gull the Hangman: or one that would willingly be thy hangman: Nay, hang me thē, if I imploy him at this time, ſaid the Boy. Well, ſaid Tarlton, then thou wilt be hanged by thy owne confeſſion: and ſo they parted.

A Ieſt of *Tarlton*, proouing Muſtard to haue wit.

TArlton keeping an Ordinary in Paternoſter row and ſitting with Gentlemen to make them merry, would approoue Muſtard (ſtanding before them) to haue wit: how ſo ſaies one? It is like a witty ſcold, meeting another ſcold, knowing that ſcold will ſcold, begins to ſcold firſt: ſo ſaies he, the Muſtard being lickt vp, and knowing that you will bite it, begins to bite you firſt. Ile try that, ſaies a Gull by, and the Muſtard ſo tickled him, that his eyes watered. How now, ſaies Tarlton, does my ieſt ſauour? I ſaies the Gull, and bite too: if you had had better wit, ſaies Tarlton, you would haue bit firſt: ſo then conclude with me,

that dumbe vnfeeling Mustard hath more wit than a talking vnfeeling fole, as you are. Some were pleased, and some were not, but all Tarltons care was taken (for his resolution was euer) before he talkt any Jest.

How *Tarlton* tooke Tobacco at the first comming up of it.

TArlton (as other Gentlemen vsed) at the first comming vp of Tobacco, did take it more for fashions sake then other wise, and being in a roome, set between two men ouercome with Wine, and they neuer seeing the like, wondred at it; and seeing the vapour come out of Tarltons nose cryed out, Fire, fire, and threw a cup of wine in Tarltons face, Make no more stirre, quoth Tarlton, the fire is quenched: if the Sheriffes come, it will turne to a fine, as the custome is. And drinking that againe, Fie, sayes the other, what a stinke it makes! I am almost poysoned. If it offend, saies Tarlton, let's every one take a little of the smell, and so the sauour will quickly goe: but Tobacco whiffes made them leaue him to pay all.

Tarlton

Tarltons *pretty Countrey Iests.*

Tarltons wit betweene a Bird and a Wood-cock.

IN the City of Glocester, M. Bird of the Chappell met with Tarlton, who ioyfull to regrét other, went to visit his friends: amongst the rest, M. Bird of the Quénes Chappell, visited M. Wood-cock of the Colledge, where méeting, many friendly speéches past, amongst which, M. Wood-cock challenged M. Bird of kin: who mused that hee was of his affinity, and hee neuer knew it. Yes sayes M. Wood-cock, euery Wood-cock is a Bird, therefore it must needs be so. Lord Sir, sayes Tarlton, you are wise, for though euery Wood-cock be a Bird, yet euery Bird is not a Wood-cock. No matter Wood-cock like a Wood-cock bit his lip, and mumbudget was silent.

Tarltons iest of a Gridiron.

WHile the Quénes Players lay in Worcester City to get money, it was his custome for to sing extempore of Theames giuen him: amongst which they were appointed to play the next day: now one fellow of the City amongst the rest, that seemed quaint of conceit, to lead other youths with his fine wit, gaue out, that the next day hee would giue him a Theame, to put him to a non plus: diuers of his friends acquainted with the same, expected some rare conceit. Well, the next day came, and my Gallant gaue him his inuention in two lines, which was this:

Me thinkes it is a thing vnfit,
To see a Gridiron turne the Spit.

The

The people laughed at this, thinking his wit knew no answere thereunto, which angred Tarlton exceedingly, and presently with a smile looking about, when they expected wonders, he put it off thus.

Methinkes it is a thing vnfit:
To see an Asse haue any wit.

The people hooted for ioy, to see the Theame-giuer baffled, who like a dog with his taile betweene his legs, left the place: But such commendations Tarlton got, that he supt with the Mailiffe that night, where my Theamer durst not come, although he were sent for, so much he vexed at that vnlookt for answer.

Tarltons answer in defence of his flat nose.

I Remember I was once at a play in the Country, where as Tarltons vse was, the play being done, euery one so pleased to throw vp his Theame: amongst all the rest, one was read to this effect, word by word:

Tarlton, I am one of thy friends, and none of thy foes.
Then I prethee tell how cam'st by thy flat nose:
Had I beene present at that time on those banks,
I would haue laid my short sword ouer his long shankes

Tarlton, mad at this question, as it was his property, sooner to take such a matter ill then well, very suddenly returned him this answere:

Friend or foe, if thou wilt needs know, marke me well,
With parting dogs & beare, then by the ears, this chance
But what of that? though my nose be flat, my credit (fell:
Yet very well, I can by the smell, (to saue,
scent an honest man from a Knaue.

Tarlton

Tarltons Iest of a Bristow man.

WHen the Quéenes Players were restrained in Summer, they trauelled downe to S. Iames his Faire, at Bristow, where they were worthily entertained both of Londoners, and those Citizens: It hapned that a wealthy Citizen, called M. Sunbanke, one morning secretly married his maid; but not so secret, but it was blowne abroad. That morning Tarlton and others walking in the Faire to visit his familiar friends of London, being in company of Bristow men, they did see M. Sunbanke comming, who had his property with his necke, not to stirre it any way but to turne body and all. It chanced at the Faire end, hee stood to pisse against a wall: to whome Tarlton came, and clapping him on the shoulder, God gine you joy of your marriage, saies he, M. Sunbanke, being taken pissing against the wall would haue looked back to thank him, and suddenly turnes about body and all in the view of many, and shewed all: which so abasht him that (ashamed) hee tooke into a Tauerne, protesting that he had rather haue spent ten pound. Sure (said the Vintner) the fault is in your necke, which will not turn without the bodies assistance, and not in M. Tarlton. Call you him M. Tarlton, saies M. Sunbanke? Yea, Sir, sayes the Vintner, he is the Quéenes Iester. He may be whole Iester hee will bee, but this iest agrées not with me at this time, saies M. Sunbanke.

A Iest broke of *Tarlton* by a Country Gentleman.

IN the country where the Quéens Players were accepted into a Gentlemans house, the waggon vnlading of the apparell, the wagener comes to Tarlton, and doth desire him to speake to the Steward for his horses. I will, saies he: and comming to the Steward, Sir, saies Tarlton, where shall our horses spend the time? The Gentleman

looking at Tarlton at that question suddenly answered, If it please you, my them, let them walke a turne or two, or there is a faire garden, let them play a game or two at bowles in the Alley: and departs thence about his other businesse. Tarlton commending the sudden wit of the Steward, saith little. But my Steward not quiet, tels to the Gentlewomen above, how he had driven Tarlton to a non plus with a iest, whereat they all did laugh heartily: which a Seruingman louing Tarlton well, ran and told him as much. Tarlton, to adde fuell to the fire, and loth to rest thus put off with a iest, goes and gets two of the horses into the garden, & turnes them into the bowling Alley, who with their heeles made hauock: being the Gentlemans only pastime. The Ladies above from a window, seeing horses in the Garden Alley, call the Knight, who cries out to Tarlton, Fellow, what meanest thou? Nothing Sir, sayes he, but two of my horses are at seuen vp, for a peck of Poenender, a lusty match that I made. Now they being in play at bowles run run, poor Steward may come after and cry rub, rub: at which though they smiled, yet the Steward had no thankes for his labour, to set the horses to such an exercise, and they could not blame Tarlton, who did but as he was bidden. But by this Iest, oates and hay, stable rome, and all, was plenty.

How *Tarlton* made one of his company vtterly forsweare drunkennesse.

AT Salisbury, Tarlton and his fellowes were to play before the Maior & his brethren: but one of his company (a young man) was so drunke, that he could not: whereat Tarlton, as mad angry, as he was mad drunk, claps me on his legs a huge paire of bolts. The fellow dead asleepe, felt nothing. When all was done, they conueyed him to the Iaile on a mans back, and intreated the Iailer to doe God good seruice, and let him lye there till he waked. While they were about their sport the fellow waked, & finding himselfe in durance, and the Iaile hung round with bolts & shackles,

he

he began to bleſſe himſelfe, & thought ſure in his drunkennesse hee had done ſome miſchiefe. With that hee called to know, but none came to him: then hée thought verily his fault was capitall, and that hée was cloſe priſoner. By and by comes the Keeper, and moaned him, that one ſo young ſhould come to ſo ſhamefull a death as hanging. Anon another comes, and another with the like, which further put him in a puzzle. But at laſt comes Tarlton, and others, intreating the Keeper, yet if it might bee, that they might ſée their fellow were they went. But hée very hardly was intreated. But at length the poore drunken Signior cald out for them. In they come. Oh Tom, ſayes Tarlton, hard was thy hap, in drunkennesse to murder this honeſt man, & our hard hap to, to haue it reported, any of our company is hang'd for it. O God, O God, ſaies the fellow, is my fault ſo great? then commend mée to all my friends. Well ſhort tale to make, the fellow forſwore drunkennesse, if hée could eſcape, and by as cunning a wile (to his thinking) they got him out of priſon by an eſcape, and ſent him to London before, who was not a little glad to be gone. But ſée how this left wrought: by little & little the fellow left his exceſſiue drinking, and in time altered his deſire of drunkennesse.

How *Tarlton* ſaued his head from cutting off.

TArlton vpon a time being in the Country, and lodging in an homely Inne, during which time there was a Gentleman dwelling in the ſame towne, ſomewhat franticke and diſtraught of his wits: which mad-man on a ſudden ruſht into Tarltons bed-chamber, with his ſword drawne, and finding him there in bed, would haue ſlaine him: ſaying, Villaine, were it not valiantly done to ſtrike off thy knaues head at one blow? Tarlton anſwered. Tut, Sir, that's nothing with your Worſhip to doe: you can as eaſily ſtrike off two heads at one blow, as one: wherefore, if you pleaſe, Ile goe downe and call vp another, and ſo you may ſtrike off both our heads at once. The mad man beleeued him, and ſo let him ſlip away.

How *Tarlton* escaped imprisonment.

TArlton hauing bin domineering very late one night, with two of his friends, and comming homewards along Cheape-side, the watch being then set, M. Constable asked, Who goes there? Three merry men, quoth Tarlton. That is not sufficient. What are you, qd. M. Constable? Why, saies Tarlton, one of vs is an eye-maker, and the other a light-maker. What saiest thou, knaue, doest mocke me? the one is an eye-maker, the other a light-maker, which two properties belong vnto God only: commit these blasphemers, quoth the constable. Nay, I pray you good M. Constable, be good in your Office, I will approue what I haue said, to be true qd. Tarlton. If thou canst saies the Constable, you shall passe, otherwise you shall be all three punished. Why (qd. Tarlton) this fellow is an eye-maker, because a Spectacle-maker; and this other a maker of light, because a Chandler, that makes your darkest night as light as your Lanthorn. The Constable seeing them so pleasant, was well contented. The rest of the watchmen laughed: & Tarlton with his two companions went home quietly.

How *Tarlton* deceived a Country Wench.

THe Queens players trauelling into the west Country to play, and lodging in a little Village, some ten miles from Bristow, in which village dwelt a pretty nut-browne Lasse, to whome Tarlton made proffer of marriage, protested, that he came from London purposely to marry her. The simple maid being proud to be beloued by such a one whom she knew to be the Queenes man, without more intreatie, yeelded: and being both at the Church together, and M. Parson ready to performe his duty, and comming to the words of, I Richard take thee Ione: nay, stay good Master Parson, I will go and call my fellowes, and come

to

to you again: so going out of the Church in haste, he returned at leasure; for, having his horse ready saddled, he rode toward Brittow, and by the way told his fellowes of his successe with his Wench.

How *Tarlton* went to kill Crowes.

IT chanced upon a time, as Tarlton went forth with a Birding peece into the fields to kill Crowes, hee spied a Daw sitting in a tree, at which he meant to shoot; but at the same instant, there came one by, to whome hee spake in this manner: Sir quoth he, ponder I see a Daw, which I will shoot at if she sit. If she sit, said the other, then she is a Daw indeed: but, quoth Tarlton, if shee sit not, what is she then? Parry, quoth the other, a Daw also: at which words she immediately flew away: whereupon, Tarlton spake merrily in a Rime, as followeth:

Whether a Daw sit, or whether a Daw fly,
Whether a Daw stand, or whether a Daw lye,
Whether a Daw creepe, or whether a Daw cry,
In what case soever a Daw persever,
A Daw is a Daw, and a Daw shall be ever.

How a poore Begger-man ouer-reached *Tarlton* by his wit.

AS Tarlton upon a day sate at his owne doore, to him came a poore old man, & begged a peny for the Lords sake: whereupon Tarlton having no single money about him, askt the begger what money he had? No more money, quoth he, but one single peny. Tarlton, being merrily disposed, called for his peny, and having received it, gaue it to his Boy to fetch a pot of Ale: whereat the begger grew blanke, and began to gather up his wits, how to get it again; the pot of Ale, for the beggers peny, being brought,

he proffered to drinke to the Begger. Nay, stay a while Master, quoth the Begger, the vle is, where I was borne, that hee that payes for the drink, must drink first. Thou saist well, quoth Tarlton; goe to, Drink to me then. Whereupon the begger take the Pot, saying, Here, Master, I drink to you, (& therewithall dranke off every drop.) Now Master, if you will pledge me, send for it as I haue done. Tarlton seeing himselfe so ouer-reacht, greatly commended the Beggers wit, and withall in recompence thereof, gaue him a Teaster: with that the Begger said, that hee would most truly pray to God for him. No, answered Tarlton, I pray thee pray for thy selfe, for I take no vsury for almes-deeds.

Of *Tarltons* pleasant answer to a Gallant by the high-way side.

IT was Tarltons occasion another time to ride into Suffolk, being furnished with a very leane large horse: and by the way, a lusty Gallant met him; and in mockage asked him, what a yard of his horse was worth? Marry Sir, quoth Tarlton, I pray you alight, and lift vp my horses Taile, and they in that shop will tell you the price of a yard.

How *Tarlton* would haue drowned his Wife.

VPon a time, as Tarlton and his Wife, (as passengers) came sailing from Southampton towards London, a mighty storme arose, and endangered the Ship, whereupon, the Captaine thereof charged euery man to throw into the Seas the beautiest thing hee could best spare, to the end to lighten some-what the Ship. Tarlton, that had his Wife there, offered to throw her ouer-bord: but the company rescued her, and being asked wherefore he meant so to doe? he answered, She is the beautiest thing I haue, and I can best spare her.

How

How *Tarlton* made his Will and Testament.

OF late there was a Gentleman living in England, that whereſoeuer he dined, would of euery diſh conney a modicum thereof into his Gowne ſleeue: which Gentleman being vpon a time at dinner at a Gentlemans houſe in the Country, there he vſed his aforeſaid quality, in the company of Maſter Tarlton, who perceiuing it, ſaid thus vnto the company: My Maſters, I am now determined before you all, to make my laſt Will and Teſtament: And firſt, I bequeath my ſoule to God my Creator, and my body to be buried in the ſleeue of yonder Gentlemans Gowne, and with that, ſtepping to him, he turned vp the Gowne ſleeue, whereout, here dropt a bit, and there a bit, with choice of much other good cheere, ſtill ſhaking it, ſaying, I meant this ſleeue, Gentleman, this ſleeue I meant.

How *Tarlton* called a Gentleman knaue by craft.

WIthin a while after, as the ſame Gentleman and Tarlton paſſed thorow a field together, a Crow in a Tree cried Kaw, Kaw, See yonder Tarlton, quoth the Gentleman yonder Crow calleth thee knaue. No, Sir (he anſwered) he beckens to your Worſhip as the better man.

Tarltons Ieſt of a Country Wench.

TArlton going towards Hogſdon, met a country maid comming to market, her Mare ſtumbling, downe ſhe fell ouer and ouer, ſhewing all that euer God ſent her, and then riſing vp againe, ſhe turned her round about vnto Maſter Tarlton, and ſaid, Gods body Sir, Did you euer ſee the like before? No, in good ſooth, quoth Tarlton, neuer but once in London.

How

How Tarlton deceived an Inne-holder at Sandwich.

VPon a time, when the Players were put to silence, Tarlton & his Boy frolicht so long in the Countrey, that all their money was gone, and being a great way from London, they knew not what to doe; but as wont is the whetstone of wit, Tarlton gathered his conceits together, and practised a trick to beare him vp to London without money, and thus it was: Vnto an Inne in Sandwich they went, and there lay for two daies at great charge, although he had no money to pay for the same: the third morning he bade his man goe downe, and male-content himself before his host and his hostesse, and mumbling say to himself, Lord, Lord, what a fraid Master doe I serue? this it is to serue such Seminary Priests and Iesuites: now euen as I am an honest Boy, Ile leaue him in the lurch, and shift for my selfe: heres adoe about Penance and Mortification, as though (forsooth) Christ hath not dyed enough for all. The Boy mumbled out these his instructions so dissembling, that it strooke a iealousy in the Inne-holders heart, that out of doubt his master was a Seminarie Priest; whereupon, he presently sent for the Constable, and told him all the foresaid matter & so went vp both together to attache Tarlton in his chamber, who purposely had shut himself close in, and betaken him to his knees, & to his crosses, to make the matter seeme more suspitious: which they espying through the key-hole, made no more adoe, but in they rushed, & arrested him for a Seminarie Priest, discharged his score, bore his, & his Dopes charges vp to London, and there in hope to haue rich rewards, presented him to M. Fleetwood, the old Recorder of London: but now marke the Iest, when the Recorder saw Tarlton, and knew him passing well, entertained him very courteously, and all to befool'd the Inne-holder, & his mate, and sent them away with fleas in their eares: but when Tarlton sawe himselfe discharged out of their hands,

hand he stood jesting and pointing at their folly, and so taught them knowledge running, more wit and to mit against another time.

Of *Tarltons* Wrongfull accusation.

VPon a time Tarlton was wrongfully accused for getting of a Gentlemans Maid with child: and for the same, brought before a Justice in Kent, whose Justice said unto him: It is a foul matter (M. Tarlton) that you being a Gentleman of good qualitie, and one of her Highnesse servants, would venture thus to get Maydens with child. May rather (quoth Tarlton) were it unwitted, if a Maid had gotten me with child.

Tarlton deceived by a Country wench.

TArlton travelling to play abroad, was in a Village where in the Inne was a pretty maid, whose honour was placed in a corner of Tarltons affection: and talking with her, she appointed to meet him at the bottom of a paire of staires. Night and the houre came, and the maid subtilly sent downe her Mistresse: whome Tarlton catching in his armes, Art come, wench, saies he? But alas, sayes the Mistresse, not knowing who it was. Tarlton hearing it was the Mistres, start aside, and the maid came running with a candle, and she espyed a glimpse of Tarlton in the darke, who kept into another roome. How now, Mistres, saith the maid, Somewhat (saith she) affrighted me, sooth man sure, for I heard him speake. Fie, no, Mistresse, said the Maid, it is no man, it was a Wall calt that I put into a roome, till John our Porter came to have pounded him for a stray. Had I thought that (saith she) I would have hit him such a knocke on the forehead, that his yonge skanlon never hade grue to the Tother side, and so the parties fell againe into talke. But how Tarlton tooke it, I leave you

How Tarlton could not abide a Cat, and deceiued himselfe.

IN the Country Tarlon told his Oastesse he was a Conjurer. Sir (sayes she) I had pewter stolne off my Shelfe the other day, help me to it, and I will forgiue you all the pots of Ale you owe me, which is fiftene dozen. Sayes Tarlton, To morrow morning the Diuell shall helpe you to it, or I will trounce his Pate. Morning came, and the Oastesse and he met in a roome by themselues. Tarlton, to passe the time with exercise of his wit, with Circles and tricks falls to coniure, hauing no more skill then a begga. But let the iest, how contrarily it fell out: as he was calling out, mons, pons, simul & sons, and such like, a Cat (vnexpected) leapt from the gutter window, which sight so amazed Tarlton that he skipt thence, & threw his Hostesse pewter, so that he departed with his fellowes, and left her by out of pocket, being then in the Surgeons hands, and not daring to tell how it came.

How *Tarlton* and his Oastesse of *Waltham* merry.

TArlton riding with diuers Citizens his friends, to make merry at Waltham, by the way he met with his Oastesse riding toward London, whome he of old acquaintance saluted. She demaunds whither they went? Tarlton told her, to make merry at Waltham. Sir (sayes she) then let me request your company at my house at the Christopher, and (for old familiarity) spend your money there. Not vnlesse you goe backe (sayes Tarlton) we will else goe to the Hound. So (to the loth to lose their custome) sent to London by her man, & goes back with them; who by the way had much mirth, for the lass was exceeding merry honest mould, yet would take any thing: which Tarlton hearing, as wise as he was (thinking her of his minde) he was deceiued: yet

he aſkt her if the biggeſt bed in her houſe were able to hold two of their bignesſe (meaning himſelfe & her.) Yes (ſaies ſhe) and tumble by and volume at pleaſure. Yea, one upon another, ſaies Tarlton? And vnder ſo, ſaies ſhe. Well, to haue their cuſtome, ſhe agreed to euery thing, like a ſubtill Dalleſſe: and it fell ſo out that Tarlton hauing her in a roome at her houſe, aſkt her which of thoſe two beds were big enough for them two? This, ſaid ſhe: therefore goe to bed ſweet-heart, Ile come to thee. Faith (ſaies Tarlton) were my Bootes off, I would indeed. Ile help you, Sir (ſaies ſhe) if you pleaſe. You (thought Tarlton) is ſo ſoone in that doore: come on then. And ſhe very diligently begins to pull, till one boot was half off. Now (ſaies ſhe) this being hard to doe, let me try my cunning on the other, and ſo get off both. But hauing both halfe off his legs, ſhe left him alone in the Shoomakers rocks, and got her to London, where Tarlton, was three houres, and had no help. But being eaſd of his paine, he made this Ryme for a Meaſure, ſinging of it all the way to London.

Women are Wanton, and hold it no ſinne,
By tricks and deuices to pull a man in.

Tarlton meeting with his Countrey acquaintance at *Ilford*.

ON a Sunday, Tarlton rode to Ilford, where his father kept: and dining with him at his Fellers, there came in diuers of the Countrey to ſee him, among ſt whom was one plaine Countrey plough-ſwaggar, who ſaid hee was of Tarltons kin, & ſo called him couſin. But Tarlton demanded of his father if it were ſo? but he knew no ſuch matter: whereupon ſaies Tarlton, whether he be of my kin or no, I will be couſin to him ere we part. All the Drinke in Ilford will doe it. So vpon this they carouſed freely, & the Clowne was then in his Cue, ſo that (in briefe) they were both in ſoundly. Night came, & Tarlton would not let his couſin goe, but they would lye together that night, meaning to

drinke at their departure next morning. Tarlton to satisfie will leave him in the lash, since power would not. But let the jest : That night the plaine fellow to pisse Tarlton in the bed, thinking he had done against the Church hauly, that he was faine to cry for a fresh shirt to shift him. So that all was well, they in ill meds drinke at parting: where Tarlton (to deale kindred fourely) the fellow bad his host: for hearing that his cosin Tarlton was gone to London, pounds he would follow, that he should neuer could hold him: and meaning to goe towards London, his mine was to goe, that he went towards Rumford to sell his Hogs.

How a Maid drove Tarlton to Non-plus.

TArlton meeting with a wily Country wench, who gaue him quip for quip; Sweet heart (laid she) would my flesh were in thine. So would I, sir (saies she) I would your nose were in my. I know where. Tarlton angred at this, said no more, but goes forwards.

Tarltons answere to a question.

One asked Tarlton why Munday was called Sundaies fellow: Because he was iustie fellow (saies Tarlton) to compare with that holy day. But it may be, Munday thinkes himselfe Sundayes fellow; because it followes Sunday, and is next after: but he comes a day after the Faire for that. Day (saies the fellow) but if two Sundayes fall together, Munday then may be the first, and it would shew well too. Yes (saies Tarlton) but if thy nose stood vnder thy mouth, it would shew better, and be more for thy profit. How for my profit, said the fellow. Marry (saith Tarlton) neuer to be cold in winter, being so neere warm hogs taile. The fellow seeing a selfish question had a selfish answere, laid his legges on his neck, and got him gone.

Tarltons desire of enough for money.

TArlton comming into a Market towne bought Oates for his horse, and desired enough for money: the man said, You shall, Sir and gaue him two halfe pecks for one. Tarlton thought his Horse should that night fare largely, and comes to him with this Rime:

Iack Nag, be brag, and lustie braue it,
I haue enough for mony, and thou shalt haue it.

But when Iack Nag smelt to them, they were so mustie, that he would none (God thanke you, Master) which Tarlton seeing, runnes into the Market, and would flash and cut. But til the next Market day the fellow was not to be found, and before then Tarlton must be gone.

How *Tarltons* Dogge lickt vp six pence.

TArlton in his trauaile had a Dogge of fine qualities, amongst the rest, he would carry six pence in the end of his tongue, of which he would brag often and say, Never was the like. Yes, saies a Lady, mine is more strange, for he will beare a French crowne in his mouth: no, saies Tarlton, I thinke not: lend me a French crowne, saies the Lady, and you shall see: truly Madame, I haue it not, but if your dog will carry a cracke English crowne, here it is: but the Lady perceiued not the iest, but was desirous to see the dogs tricke of six pence. Tarlton threw down a trasher, and said, Bring Sirra: and by fortune the Dog took vp a Counter, and let the money lie: a Gentlewoman by, seeing that, askt him how long he would hold it? An houre, saies Tarlton: that is pretty, said the Gentlewoman, let's see that: meane time she tooke vp the fiue pence, and willed him to let them see the money againe: when he did see it, it was a Counter, and he made this Rime.

Alas, alas, how came all this to passe?
The worlds worse then it was:
For silver turns to brasse.

I, sayes the Lady, & the dog hath made his master an Asse: but Tarlton would never trust to his Dogs tricks more.

Tarltons Iest of a Horse and a Man.

IN the City of Norwich, Tarlton was on a time inuited to an hunting: where there was a goodly Gentlewoman, that bravely mounted on a blacke horse, rode exceeding well, to the wonder of all the beholders, and neither hedge nor ditch stood in her way, but Pegasus her horse (for so may we tearme him for swiftnesse) flew ouer all, and she sate him as well. When euery one returned home, some at Supper commended his Hound, others his Hawke, and shee aboue all, her Horse: and, said she, I loue no liuing creature so well (at this instant) as my gallant horse: yes Lady, a man better, saies Tarlton. Indeed no, said shee, not now: For since my last husband died, I hate them most, vnlesse you can giue me medicines to make me loue them. Tarlton made this iest instantly:

Why, a Horse mingeth Whay, Madam, a Man mingeth Amber,
A Horse is for your Way, Madam, but a man for your Chamber.

God a mercy, Tarlton, said the men: which the Gentlewoman noting, seeing they take exceptions at her words, to make all well, answered thus:

That a Horse is my chiefe opinion now, I deny not,
And when a man doth me more good in my chamber,
I him defie not.

But till then giue me leaue to loue something: then something will please you, said Tarlton, I am glad of that, therefore I pray God send you a good thing, or none at all.

Tarltons

Tarltons talke with a pretty Woman.

GEntlewoman, said Tarlton, and the rest as you sit, I can tell you strange things: now many Gallants at Supper noted one woman, who being little and pretty, to vnfit her prettinesse, had a great wide mouth, which she seeming to hide, would pinch in her speeches, and speake small, but was desirous to heare newes. Tarlton told at his comming from London to Norwich, a Proclamation was made that euery man should haue two wiues. now Iesus, qd. she is it possible? I Gentlewoman, and other wise able to, for contrarily women haue a larger prœminence, for euery woman must haue three husbands: Now Lawsus, said the Gentlewoman, and with wonder shewes the full widenesse of her mouth, which all the table smil'd at: which she perceiuing, would answere no more. Now Pistris, said, Tarlton, your mouth is lesse then euer it was, for now it is able to say nothing. Thou art a cogging Knaue, said she. Softe, and that is something yet, said Tarlton, your mouth shall be as wide as euer it was, for that Iest.

A Iest of *Tarlton* to a great man.

THere was a great huge man, 32 yards in the waste, at S. Edmondsbury in Suffolk, that died but of late dates (one M. Blague by name) a good kinde Iustice too, carefull for the poore, this Iustice met with Tarlton in Norwich: Tarlton, said he, Giue me thy hand: But, you Sir, being richer, may giue me a greater gift, giue me your body: and imbracing him, could not halfe compasse him: being merry in talke, said the Iustice: Tarlton, tell me one thing, what is the difference betwixt a Flea and a Louse? Marry, Sir; said Tarlton, as much and like difference, as twixt you and me: I like a Flea (or else) can skip nimbly: But you, like a fat Louse creepe slowly, and you can go no faster, though

But

Butchers are ouer you, ready to knock you on the head. Thou art a knaue, quoth the Iustice, I sir, I knew that ere I came hither, else I had not been here now, for euer one knaue (making a stop) sekes out another, The Iustice vnderstanding him, laughed heartily.

Tarltons Iest to a maid in the darke.

TArlton going in the darke, groping out his way, heares the tread of some one to meet him. Who goes there, saies he? A man, or a monster, said the maid, A monster, saith Tarlton, A candle, hoe: and seeing who it was, Indeed saith he, A monster, Ile be sworne for thy teeth are longer then thy hand. O sir, said the maid, speake no more then you see, for women are visible now adayes.

Tarltons Iest to a Dogge.

TArlton and his fellowes, being in the Bishop of Winchesters Seller, and being largely laid to, Tarlton had his route, and going through the streets, a Dogge (in the middle of the street, asleep, on a dunghill) seeing Tarlton reele on him, on the sodaine barkt, How now Dog, saies Tarlton, are you in your humors? and many daies after it was a by-word to a man being drunke, that he was in his humors.

FINIS.